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A GATEWAY TO CHARACTER BUILDING

Boys and Girls 4-H Club Work

7-9
At 4 pm
LIBRARY RECEIVED
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Office of Exhibits.

A Summary of the exhibit.

A GATEWAY TO CHARACTER BUILDING.

An exhibit consisting of eight scenic b
booths and one panel showing the ac-
complishments of young people in 4-H
Club Work.

Specifications.

Floor space required for each of 8 booths --width--11 ft.
depth 7 ft.

Wall space required ----- None.

Shipping weight for entire exhibit-----5900 lbs..

Electrical requirements - 110 volt A. C. or D. C.
current, 2,000 watts needed for lights.

Girls' 4-H club work
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17-10-1914

A GATEWAY TO CHARACTER BUILDING

Boys and Girls 4-H Club Work

The outstanding note of progress in Boys' and Girls' 4-H club work has been in the development of that initiative and leadership among farm youth which is enabling them to recognize and solve effectively, largely through their own efforts, many of the social and economic problems confronting them. The far-reaching influence of a program founded upon the principle of self-help can hardly be estimated from a national standpoint.

This year, considerably over a half million farm boys and girls are enrolled in the 4200 organized clubs. Each member conducts a substantial piece of work, planned to show some high-standard practice on the farm or in the home, keeps a record of results, explains the work to others, makes an exhibit and writes a final report summarizing the whole season's activities. The clubs are organized to include practically every activity of the farm and the farm home. Typical lines of work are: growing an acre or more of corn or cotton in accordance with the directions of the State Agricultural College, raising a sow and litter of pigs, growing fruits and vegetables in keeping with the dietary needs of the family, canning the surplus of the garden, increasing the comfort and satisfaction of the farm home through money earned in other club activities, beautifying the home grounds as well as conducting other phases of farm and home work that especially appeal to young people and help solve community needs.

In keeping with the 4-H club insignia is the national club pledge: "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my club, my community and my country." Governed by such principles of citizenship, 4-H club work cannot be other than a strong constructive force in community building. Through it cooperation, one of the greatest needs of rural life, is being emphasized as well as those virtues that make for manhood and womanhood and for real success in life.

Woodrow Wilson once said, "Character is a by-product of what we do." So in 4-H club work, the creation in boys and girls of a justifiable satisfaction and pride in rural life and in work well done, the development of a cooperative and altruistic spirit, and a broadened vision of the opportunities and responsibilities of citizenship are by-products of the club program in improving the agricultural and home life of rural America. The club meeting, the club program, the club demonstration, the recreational and social features of club work, the contact with men and women of achievement and the attainment of club goals established by the members are all planned to help develop the boys and girls while they are doing substantial, worth while tasks in agriculture and homemaking.

It is the plan that the club program should be a part of, or harmonize with the regular cooperative agricultural and home economics extension program of the community. However, the rural boy and girl may constitute as much of a rural problem as do crops and livestock, and efforts in their behalf leading to the development of a better cooperative spirit and a more intelligent, helpful and constructive interest in rural welfare constitute an important feature of the work.

As far as practicable, boys and girls are given a voice in the development of the extension program which they are to carry out. To an increasing degree, the older members are being made delegates to meetings at which community and county extension programs are determined. Because of the importance of this work to the community, the club members feel that they are performing worthwhile tasks and that their efforts count. Thus there is aroused a community consciousness and a genuine sense of community responsibility.

Stories of outstanding achievement among the five million and more boys and girls who have been enrolled in the work since its inception, lend a strong note of optimism to the dark picture sometimes painted of modern youth. It is indeed difficult for 4-H club leaders, fresh from their contacts with wholesome ambitious farm boys and girls, to listen to the disheartening tales of those men and women who see only partly what the youth of today is doing in field and city.

What can be accomplished through 4-H club work in the development of character, is illustrated in this exhibit.

(1) Faith. Charles Schneider, a farm boy of Ohio, twenty-five years ago was planning to work in a factory of a nearby city as soon as he left school. Just about this time, however, he became a 4-H club member. Because of the interest he developed in farm tasks which, previous to that time were drudgery, and because of the faith enkindled in farm life through his club work, Charles Schneider decided to remain on the farm and make that farm pay. Now Charles owns a good farm of his own with purebred livestock, is prominent in the affairs of the community and is, altogether, a beloved substantial citizen. Of himself, Charles says: "If it had not been for the club work which was started in my neighborhood, I would be a factory hand today."

(2) Ambition. A few years ago Harry Knabe showed the grand champion carload of hogs at the American Royal Livestock Show. In 1917, he was the boy at Nehawka, Nebraska, who started in club work with one sow named "Pansy" and the ambition to be a successful hog breeder. Harry Knabe recently said: "If it had not been for club work, I don't suppose that I would have a hog today." At the present time, Harry Knabe's business is worth \$4,400.

(3) Vision. Eloise Parsons of Iowas excelled in her garden and canning club work not only in her own community and State, but on a regional basis also. Through her club work, she caught a vision of what she might become as a woman and homemaker. After finishing her college work, she became a home demonstration agent. Later she resigned from her position to marry an outstanding farmer. Today, Eloise is taking a prominent part in home and community affairs and she is well known as an ideal homemaker.

(4) Diligence. In Simpson County, Mississippi, when cotton growers became discouraged due to the infestation of the boll weevil, club boys decided to see what they could do in growing cotton. The local growers shook their heads, but by diligently carrying out improved practices and keeping at it, these boys raised 72 bales on 72 acres, twice as much as the average for the surrounding country.

(5) Fidelity. Kate Welsh of Woodbridge, New Haven County, Connecticut, joined the 4-H club known as "Uncle Sam's Servers" when 12 years old. Five years later she was president of the club, one of the most outstanding club girls in Connecticut, and with another club girl, had established a doughnut business in New Haven as a means of obtaining money for a college education. In addition, she helped her mother with the housework, looked after the children, and somehow found time to go to school. Through it all, Kate Welsh preserved the spirit of of the home.

(6) Perseverance. Ford Mercer of Oklahoma, winner of the Moses Leadership Trophy for 1924, is an outstanding example of 4-H development in practical improvement and leadership. The story of the first two or three years of his club work is one of individual pluck and determination and of gradual growth. He enrolled successfully in corn, poultry, pig and cotton club work. He overcame his father's indifference to club work and enlisted him on a partnership basis. During Ford Mercer's eight years of club work his father a tenant farmer moved several times, but Ford continued his club membership without interruption, stirred up interest in club work wherever he went and helped the county agent to organize new 4-H clubs in the communities to which he moved. He achieved the State championship in the corn and pig clubs, served with credit on demonstration and judging teams, gave a large number of public demonstrations, and successfully coached other club members in demonstration and judging work. His presidency of his county 4-H club federation is a tribute to his consistent effort and successful leadership in the club activities of his county. Ford Mercer's story is one of inspiration to farm boys and girls and his 4-H club record is worthy of the best American traditions.

(7) Thrift. Helen Brown of Sunset Community, Washington, was a club member as soon as she was able to meet the age requirement. After four years in club work she had to her credit a 500 unit laying house, a profitable flock, a good bank account and a business worth \$2200. Ever since Helen has been a club member, she has taken an active interest in all club and community activities, carrying on several home projects in addition to her poultry work, leading a club of her own, training a large number of demonstration teams and helping in many ways those anxious to excel in 4-H club work. Helen Brown through her club work, became an outstanding example of thrift; and proved herself an all-around 4-H club member.

(8) Accomplishment. Viva M. Divan of Green County, Wisconsin, turned to 4-H club work in 1919 as an incentive for outdoor activity which illness had made necessary. She won prizes in canning and sewing and raised purebred swine, winning in prizes an average of \$559.00 each year for four years. She has sold breeding stock extensively in several counties in which she has exhibited and where her stock is especially known.

While still a club member, she decided that if the county board of supervisors knew more of the value of club work, it would make provision for more extensive development. She appeared before the board and talked to them about club work, with the result that \$300 was set aside by the board for this purpose. She then got in touch with the State Extension office and with its advice began organizing clubs and enlisting volunteer leadership. At the end of the first year the county fair board increased its premiums for club exhibits from \$200 to \$700 to encourage more members to undertake club work. All the club members who had enrolled finished their work 100 %.

But Viva does not forget that one of her greatest accomplishments was a strong, vigorous, healthy body.

